Parent Resources to Support Reading Comprehension

Strategies for Expanding Meaning

Inferring	**Definition:** To arrive at a decision or opinion by reasoning from known facts or evidence.	**Readers need to:** Go beyond the literal meaning of a text to derive what is not there, but is implied.	**Helps readers learn to:** Construct thoughts about how characters behave, think, or react, or how the plot unfolds. Understands what is not stated but is implied.
Summarizing	**Definition:** To present the substance or general idea in brief form.	**Readers need to:** Put together information from the text and from personal, world, and text knowledge to create new understanding.	**Helps readers learn to:** Relate important ideas to each other. Deepen understanding of ideas and concepts by integrating new and prior knowledge and understanding "lived through" experiences from the text with personal experiences.
Synthesizing	**Definition:** To bring together parts or elements to form a whole.	**Readers need to:** Put together information from the text and from personal knowledge to create new understanding.	**Helps readers learn to:** Relate important ideas to each other. Expand personal understanding by incorporating "lived through" experiences from the text with personal experiences.

Talking about books and reading DAILY at home is an important part of your child's expanded learning. Reading with comprehension is more than being able to answer simple, factual questions about a passage that has been read. It is important that parents can support the processes of INFERRING, SYNTHESIZING, ANALYZING and CRITIQUING at home.

The suggested questioning strategies on the reverse of this card can guide you in supporting the development of good comprehension skills at home.

We suggest that you engage in discussion about reading using some of these questions at least THREE TIMES PER WEEK.

Strategy:	Examples of questions for rich discussion:

INFERRING	(for a narrative text) Can you predict what is about to happen next? Why did you make that prediction? Can you point to something in the book that helped you to make that prediction? OR What do you already know that helped you make that prediction?
	    Why did (the character) do that?
	What did the author mean by _____?
	    (Character name) must be feeling _____. Are there clues that help us to know that?
	What's going to happen next?
	    What must have taken place before _____? Is there evidence in the story that helps you to know that?
	What do you think that (character) meant by _____? … felt about _____? … thought about _____? … will do about _____?

SUMMARIZING	In general, what is this story about?
	    What is the problem to be solved in this story? Is there a solution?
	What has happened so far?
	    Who did what? What makes you think so?
	What do you wonder about after reading so far?
	    What is the most important point in this story or passage?

SYNTHESIZING	Is there anything you understand in a new way from reading this story?
	    What ideas (or concepts, of feelings) are most interesting to you? Why?
	Does (a historical event or personal experience) make more sense after reading this?
	    What is something that you understand better after reading this?
	What is confusing about this story or event?
	    What picture comes to your mind when thinking about how (character) _____?
	What are the reasons that _____happened?
	    Does this book make you think of anything that has happened to you?
	Does this story remind you of anything else you have read?

ANALYZING	What things would make everyone like this book?
	    Describe the writing style of this author.
	The author makes you feel as if you were there by _____.
	    What are some examples of rich, colorful, or great language that makes this a good passage to read?
	What are the critical points in the plot? How doe4s the story unfold?

CRITIQUING	Would people in your life act this way?
	    What is unbelievable about this text?
	Should other kids read this? Why or why not?
	    What makes this (book, story, biography) authentic or real?
	What important information is missing?
	    What would have made this story more interesting to read?
	What parts of the story show the attitude of the author?
	    What are the words or phrases that you really liked? That made you feel?

Above information paraphrased from guiding Readers and Writers by Fountas and Pinnell, What Really Matters for Struggling Readers by Allington, and Mosaic of Thought by Keene and Zimmerman.